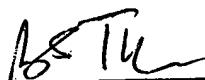


REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is a Preliminary Amendment for the above-identified Divisional Patent Application filed on October 18, 2001, which is a Division of commonly assigned, copending patent application Serial No. 09/487,024. Applicants have canceled without prejudice claims 1-105 and 144-149. Remaining claims 106-143 correspond to the Examiner's Group III contained in the Restriction Requirement in the parent application.

In the Restriction Requirement of the parent application, the Examiner required that, if Group III was chosen, Applicants should elect a species "between the vacuum, textured and loop retractors". Claims 106-120 appear to read on the vacuum species of retractors; claims 121-129 on the textured species of retractors; and 130-143 on the loop species of retractors. Applicants provisionally elect claims 106-120 corresponding to the vacuum species identified by the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

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